



Inside Illinois DNR

December 2018

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IDNR Careers

IDNR offers a wide array of professional careers in the conservation and natural resource arena. Click [here](#) to see what jobs openings are available.

A Message from Director Wayne Rosenthal



The holiday season is a great time to take the family to visit some of our beautiful Illinois state parks and state historic sites.

Our state park lodges are decorated for the holidays, and whether you're thinking about a weekend stay or a festive dinner, make your reservations soon.

A number of special holiday events are on the December schedule at our Illinois State Historic Sites.

The oldest surviving capitol building in Illinois is putting on its holiday best when the Vandalia Statehouse Christmas Open House features candlelight tours on the evening of Saturday, December 8. The first 100 families to visit the Vandalia Statehouse that evening will receive free Christmas ornaments, and they'll find the building illuminated by more than 150 candles and trimmed with holiday decorations. The free festivities are scheduled for 5:00-7:30 p.m., and the Vandalia Historical Society will provide cookies, cider and hot chocolate.

The Old State Capitol State Historic Site in Springfield is also decorated for the holidays, and is open every day (except closed Christmas and New Year's Day) from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Also in Springfield, the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Dana-Thomas House State Historic Site is decorated for the holiday season through December 30. The annual Dana House Luminaria display will be Sunday, December 16 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., with hundreds of candles lining the walks and ledges around the house.

The David Davis Mansion State Historic Site in Bloomington is festooned with the decorative features that are part of "A Dickens Christmas" - blazing fireplaces, holly and mistletoe, collections of antique toys and teddy bears, as well as a room filled with vintage dolls. Davis Mansion tour hours for the holiday season are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays through December 29.

The Bishop Hill State Historic Site in northwest Illinois features the annual Lucia Nights Festival of Lights on December 7-8 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., and the Julotta Candlelight non-denominational service in the Colony Church, conducted in Swedish and English, at 6:00 Christmas morning.

Best wishes from all of us at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for a happy holiday season.

Wayne Rosenthal

DNR in the news

Fort Massac

**A Good Day at
Banner Marsh**

**Starved Rock
Visits**

**Downers Grove
Blodgett House**

Statewide Offices

**Springfield, IL
217-782-6302**

**Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100**

**Benton, IL
618-435-8138**

**Chicago, IL
312-814-2070**

Highlights



Guided Winter Hikes

Join in a guided hike Saturdays and Sundays, December through March, with the possibility of seeing frozen waterfalls and Bald Eagles in flight! Hike from Starved Rock State Park Lodge to LaSalle Canyon. Participants meet in the hotel lobby of the Lodge to pick up a snack and a Starved Rock Lodge backpack (\$12). After leaving LaSalle Canyon, the hike continues to Eagle Cliff and Lover's Leap for the best view of the majestic eagles. The tour concludes at the Lodge at 2:00 p.m. [For more information click here](#)



Young Hunters Can Register Now for Central Illinois Youth Goose Hunt

Youth interested in participating in the annual Central Illinois Youth Goose Hunt, sponsored by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, may register now for the hunt scheduled for January 20-21, 2019 in Fulton County. To register for a drawing to participate in the hunt, youth hunters must phone in to the IDNR at 217-785-8060 by the registration deadline of Friday, December 28. [For more information click here](#)



IDNR Offers 2019 Spring Turkey Hunting on Private Property Through the IRAP Public Access Program

Youth and adult hunters can now apply for 2019 Spring Turkey Hunting opportunities through the Illinois Recreational Access Program (IRAP). The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has leased about 15,000 acres of private land on more than 170 sites in 39 counties for 2019 spring turkey hunting. Public access on the hunting sites is available free of charge for the two-weekend youth season, which will be held on March 30-31 and April 6-7, 2019. Individuals must be under 18 years of age to participate as a youth hunter. To be eligible for the youth drawing, individuals must fill out an IRAP application and return it by February 26, 2019. [For more information click here](#)

Check out these amazing time-lapse videos of Illinois' [Great State Parks](#)



ICF Membership Program

Become an
ICF Member
Today

With your
help, we are
"Turning
Screen Time
into Green
Time."

Join ICF
Today

Call
(217) 785-2003

Visit ICF

Highlights



Snowmobiling in Illinois

No person under 10 years of age may operate a snowmobile. Age 10 years and less than 12 years of age may operate under a parent or guardian's direct control. The Illinois Snowmobile Education Course consists of a minimum eight hours of instruction. The educational material is based on a sixth-grade reading level. These courses cover the basics in maintenance and repair of snowmobiles, proper and safe operation, history of snowmobiling, first aid, protection of the environment and the state laws. [For more information click here](#)



Tree and Shrub ID Walk at Cache River on December 9

From 1:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m. walk the floodplain wood at Big Cypress Access with Kevin Rohling, forestry technician with the University of Illinois at Dixon Springs Agricultural Center, as he guides you in the identification of trees and shrubs by twigs, buds and bark. This access showcases an area of the forest that was never logged and has bald cypress trees that are over 1,000 years old. [For more information click here](#)



Christmas Bird Count - Pulaski County

On December 17 from 6:30 a.m. until sunset, count all the birds you see. The annual all-day census of early winter bird populations has been conducted by thousands of volunteers throughout the U.S. for more than 100 years. Audubon Society and other organizations use data collected to assess the health of bird populations. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Direct questions to the Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge which is the lead agency in the Pulaski County count. [For more information click here.](#)

Deer Accidentally Killed/Injured by Motor Vehicles



There is no limit to the number of deer that may be possessed under these circumstances. No part of a deer so killed can be bartered or sold. Except for law enforcement officers in the performance of their duties it is illegal to kill a deer crippled by a collision with a motor vehicle or crippled by methods other than lawful hunting unless permission has been obtained from a Conservation Police Officer. [For more information click here](#)

Firefighter Property Program



The Firefighter Property Program (FFP) refers to one of the United States Department of Defense's (DOD) special programs where firefighters can get excess DOD property to be used for firefighting and emergency services. Certain property obtained from this program passes ownership after it has been in use for a specified period of time. This program is managed by the USDA Forest Service with cooperation of the State Forestry Agencies. [For more information click here](#)



Target Illinois Poachers

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources Office of Law Enforcement developed the "Target Illinois Poachers" program to encourage any concerned citizen who witness a conservation offense to report the violation. Citizens who want to report violations can call the toll-free telephone number, 1-877-2DNRLAW (1-877-236-7529) or you can report the violation by e-mail. [For more information click here](#)



For Your Garden

Native plants provide beauty as well as food and shelter for wildlife. They require little or no watering and are resistant to drought, insects and most diseases. Most species are perennials. Use the *For Your Garden* information from the IDNR Division

of Education to help you find suitable native plant species to include in your garden. [For more information click here](#)



Conservation Programs

Ten young osprey chicks relocated from Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Virginia were released at two sites in Illinois this summer. The releases are part of an eight-year effort to restore the osprey as a nesting species in Illinois. [For more information click here](#)



Ring in the New Year

IDNR Lodges are taking reservations now for New Year's celebrations. Holiday packages include overnight room, dinner, dancing, breakfast and so much more. [For more information click here](#)

For more information check out our [monthly calendar of events!](#)

Visit the IDNR on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter!](#)